

Docket No. 5317

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): John S. HENDRICKS et al.

Examiner: A. Koenig

Serial No.: 09/556,875

Art Unit: 2611

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FOR: **DIGITAL BROADCAST PROGRAM BILLING**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT


Sir:

In response to the June 28, 2004 Restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 1-20 drawn to an authorization code in a broadcast system, with traverse.

Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of all claims 1-37 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the search and examination of the entire application should be made without serious burden. See M.P.E.P. §803, which states that "if the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits" (emphasis added). Applicants respectfully submit that this policy should apply in the above-identified application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to the Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 20, 2004



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